

[Close Window](#)**Allen offers bill to ban Internet taxes**

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WASHINGTON—Sen. George Allen (R-Va.) today is introducing legislation to permanently ban new Internet taxes, a move with bipartisan support that could face resistance from states facing steep budget deficits.

"The more expensive government makes it for people to access the Internet, the less likely they are to use it ... The Internet should remain just one click away, always," said Allen. Allen and Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) represent two of the largest high-tech states in the country.

The Allen bill, like a similar one introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Rep. Christopher Cox (R-Calif.) last week, would extend the current moratorium on new e-commerce taxes. The moratorium ends in November. Both bills target Internet access fees and multiple taxation by cities and states of Internet transactions. The bills do not address Internet sales tax, a subject of ongoing debate.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 1992 said the nation's 7,600 tax jurisdictions could not collect taxes from out-of-state sellers without a physical presence in the taxing venue. Lawmakers allege states are trying to get around the high-court ruling. As such, the Internet sales tax remains controversial.

At a press briefing today, Allen also said he and Sen. Boxer hope to offer a bill before month's end to set aside additional spectrum for unlicensed wireless technologies.

Today, at the Wireless Communications Association expo in San Jose, Rep. Mike Honda (D-Calif.) plans to announce he will offer companion legislation to the Allen-Boxer bill. Honda is co-chair of the Wireless Internet Caucus in the House.

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